

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

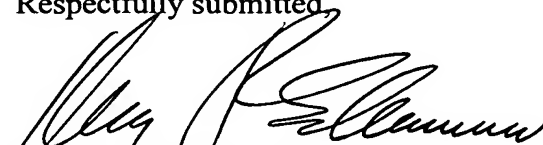
The specification and claims have been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action to which this amendment is responsive. By this amendment, the independent claims each have been amended to improve their form and to distinguish even more clearly over the prior art.

Claims 1, 3-6 and 15 have been rejected as being anticipated by Sanquist; claims 8-14 have been rejected as being obvious over Witmeyer; and claims 1, 2 and 15 have been rejected as being anticipated by Wesley et al. Reconsideration of such rejections is respectfully requested. Applicant's invention relates to a more challenging rapid fire rotary shooting target that is both simple in construction and which facilitates safe usage by minimizing harmful splash back of bullet fragments that can damage the support structure and potentially injure persons on the firing line. The rotary shooting target, as set forth in independent claims 1 and 11, basically comprises a stand having a horizontal axle, and a target structure that includes a rotary mounted on the axle, a support structure affixed to and extending radially of the hub on diametrically opposed sides, and impact plates fixed to the support structure and laterally offset relation to each other in a direction parallel to the axis such that impact upon the plates as an incident to shooting will cause rotation of the target structure about the axle. The target structure may have a novel rod and plate construction as set forth in the dependent claims, or a unitary coplanar plate construction as set forth in independent claim 7.

In contrast, in Witmeyer, the target plates are in radially aligned relation to each other without any lateral offset in a direction parallel to the axis of the support structure. While the Examiner references Fig. 5 of Witmeyer as showing a horizontal separation, that view is a vertical sectional view and hence cannot reflect any separation in a plane parallel to the axis of the hub. Sanquist is neither analogous to the present invention, and indeed, the pedals are rotatable. Hence, even if struck by a bullet they would rotate relative to their support structure, rather than rotate the entire support structure as called for in applicant's claims. Wesley et al., typical of long existing prior art, simply teaches rotational support of a target member on a horizontal support rod. Target structure does not include a rotary hub and support structures which support impact plates radially outwardly from opposed sides of the rotary hub in lateral space relation to each other as called for in claims 1 and 11. At most, the wings are mounted laterally of the central body section of the target member. Nor does Wesley et al. provide any suggestion of the advantages of the present invention.

From the foregoing, it is believed that the claims as now presented all patentably distinguish over the prior art so as to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early action to that effect is respectfully requested. If after reviewing the foregoing, any questions remain, the Examiner is invited to call applicant's undersigned attorney at his direct number (312) 616-5640 with the hope of placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted



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